Revision of basic minimum wages in A.P.

2300. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Andhra Pradesh the basic minimum wages of unskilled workers has not been revised since 1993 ignoring the inflation and other factors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons cited by the State Government for non-revision of minimum wages in the State; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per information available, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has revised the minimum wages in most of the scheduled employment after 1993. the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also introduced Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA), linked to Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the industrial workers, **in** order to protect the wages against inflation.

(c) Under the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Government to fix, revise and enforce minimum wages in their respective jurisdictions. The Central Government has been advising the State Governments to revise the minimum wages at regular intervals and also adopt VDA linked to CPI as a component of minimum wages.

Disinvestment of Baico and Modern Foods

2301. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has been directed by the Prime Minister to constitute a Committee to find out whether there is a difference of facts given by Government and the trade unions relating to conditions of disinvested companies like BALCO and Modern Foods;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference and whether this exercise would be confined to only these two companies or similarly place other disinvested companies; and